



KELVIN L. SIMMONS

Kelvin L. Simmons, director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development, is successfully meeting the challenge to create jobs in Missouri. In the first six months alone, Simmons is already taking economic development in an exciting new direction and job growth is surging in Missouri.

Upon his appointment by Governor Bob Holden on December 11, 2003, Simmons primary focus has been developing and implementing new job growth and retention strategies with Missouri's local economic development partners to further expedite the state's economic recovery from the national recession.

Under his direction, Missouri is witnessing sound economic momentum and one of the fastest rising job growth rates in the nation. Missouri's job creation in June alone - 27,600 jobs - ranked second in the nation. Since January, Missouri payrolls have grown by 59,600 jobs or at a rate of 2.22 percent, which ranks as the second highest growth rate of any state and is more than twice the national average.

Simmons is providing the strong leadership required to further boost Missouri's economic momentum as well. Recently, he was the driving force in the development and passage of Governor Holden's Jobs Now Act. He will be responsible for implementing the Act's provisions, which will create new jobs, increase investments in public infrastructure, stimulate growth of targeted industries and upgrade the skills of Missouri's workforce. He will help implement the Tax Credit Accountability Act, as well, increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the department's tax credit programs.

In addition to managing the state's efforts to stimulate economic, community, workforce and tourism development throughout Missouri, he also directs the following regulatory agencies: the Division of Credit Unions, the Division of Finance, the Office of the Public Counsel, the Division of Professional Registration and the Missouri Public Service Commission.

Overall, Simmons oversees more than 60 separate divisions, commissions and boards with more than 1,450 employees, while administering a \$276 million budget and outlays of millions of dollars in grants, tax credits and other assistance to Missouri's communities and businesses.

As director he is an ex-officio member of several boards, including the Missouri Technology Corporation, the Seed Capital Investment Board, the Missouri Development Finance Board and the MOST Board.

Previously, Simmons served as a commissioner and chairman of the Public Service Commission. Among his many accomplishments at the PSC was the settlement of the largest electricity rate complaint case in state history, which has resulted in several important programs that will benefit low-income customers and support community economic development efforts.

He was also elected twice to serve on the Kansas City Council, representing the 5th District; was Director for Constituent Services for the late Governor Mel Carnahan; was State Director for Equal Employment Opportunity in the Office of Administration; served as State Political Director for the 1996 Clinton/Gore Presidential Campaign; directed the 1992 Missouri Democratic Party's voter registration and 'Get Out the Vote' campaign in Kansas City; and served as campaign aide to former Congressman Alan Wheat.

He has received many awards and honors, including the Governor's Torch of Excellence Award for Leadership in Diversity and the Public Service Leadership Award from the NAACP, St. Louis City Branch in 2003.

Simmons, 40, resides in Columbia. He has baccalaureate degrees in Communications and Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Missouri-Columbia, an Executive Masters in Business Administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and has studied and engaged in missions of understanding internationally in Sweden, Finland, South Africa, Cuba, Hong Kong and China, and participated in international exchanges in Jamaica and France.

